



# 2008 SESSION REPORT

To the citizens of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DAVE UPTHEGROVE



### Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Spring is here and another legislative session has come to a close. It is an honor to serve as your State Representative in Olympia.

This year, my focus remained on taking steps to improve our economy. I don't know anyone who isn't feeling a pinch right now... whether from gas prices, home mortgage woes, or job & pension insecurity. State government alone can't create the kind of change we need in our economy, but we did take positive steps to:

- \* Support local economic development to create good paying **jobs** with benefits
- \* Invest in **education** to build a good economic future
- \* Reduce the cost of **health care** a little bit to help ease the burden

In order to have good jobs and a strong economy, we also need to keep South King County a great place to live. As Chairman of the House Ecology and Parks Committee, I led efforts to **protect and preserve our environment**, including an aggressive measure to combat global climate change and create new green-collar jobs.

**Transportation** delays continue to plague our day-to-day lives. As a member of the House Transportation Committee, I worked to keep local road improvements on track and support better transit choices.

As always, your input is important and I hope you take the time to share your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Dave Upthegrove

#### Address:

P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

#### Phone:

360-786-7868

#### E-mail:

[upthegrove.dave@leg.wa.gov](mailto:upthegrove.dave@leg.wa.gov)

#### Web:

<http://hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/upthegrove>

#### Olympia office:

360-786-7868

#### Toll-free Legislative Hotline:

1-800-562-6000

#### TTD-TDD Hearing Impaired:

1-800-635-9993

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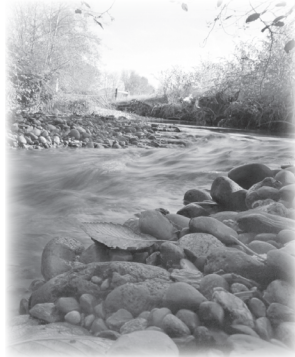
## PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT



The Puget Sound region is one of the most beautiful places to live in the nation. It is no surprise that another 1 million people will move into the region during the next 25 years. In planning for this growth, we must find new ways to not only protect and restore Puget Sound, but preserve forests and green space – all while maintaining and attracting good jobs.

### PUGET SOUND CLEAN UP EFFORTS

The newly created Puget Sound Partnership is working with scientists, government agencies and citizens to develop the Action Agenda which will detail the required steps and costs to restore the health of Puget Sound by 2020. This year the Legislature kept the process on track and significantly increased funding for Puget Sound cleanup efforts. Please visit the Puget Sound Partnership website at [www.psp.wa.org](http://www.psp.wa.org) for more information.



### "GREEN COLLAR JOBS"

As chairman of the House committee tasked with dealing with climate change, I led the effort to pass legislation to begin reducing carbon emissions in our state and position us to benefit economically and create jobs as we transition away from our dependence on foreign oil. The bill promotes training programs and apprenticeships for jobs in the emerging, renewable energy industries – "green collar jobs." These steps will help create 25,000 new green collar jobs in our state by 2020.



### EVERGREEN COMMUNITIES

I supported this proposal to help cities keep existing trees and plant new ones. This initiative is important because tree cover provides environmental benefits as well as shade and improved quality of life in urban and suburban communities like ours.

## WARNING: WORST IDEA IN OLYMPIA!

### SB 6900: A new tax based on the size of your car engine?

While we need to reduce pollution from cars, this measure was poorly thought out. I **opposed** SB 6900, which fortunately never even received a hearing in the transportation committee.



# STATE REP. DAVE UPTHEGROVE

## TRANSPORTATION



On the Transportation Committee, we crafted a budget that keeps our commitment to current projects, and focuses on improving safety and relieving congestion. We achieved this by cutting overhead and ensuring that scarce dollars only went to promised projects. In addition to investing in our roads and bridges, I also sponsored measures to support more affordable, healthier, and more environmentally friendly transportation options.

### TRANSPORTATION EDUCATION FOR KIDS

To promote the use of affordable and healthy transportation choices, I secured funding for pilot programs in three school districts to teach children safe walking, bicycling, and public

transit use practices. The long-term goal is to ensure that every young person learns how to access public transit and safe walking and bike routes in their community.

### PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE SAFETY

Walking and cycling can be good transportation options in some situations. However, accidents involving pedestrians and bicyclists are on the rise. My legislation now adds pedestrian and bicycle safety to the curriculum in all drivers' education classes.



## SUPPORTING THE ECONOMY



Washington's diverse industrial base is doing a good job insulating the state's economy from the national trends, but we are not completely immune.

We continued to invest in education, health care and public infrastructure to improve the overall business climate. We also took great strides to protect homeowners from the unscrupulous lending practices that have damaged the national home market.

## MORTGAGE REFORM

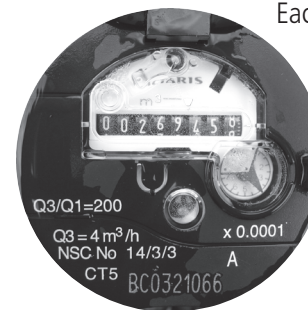


The nationwide housing market is in bad shape but thankfully, things aren't quite so bad here in Washington. I supported several reforms to help protect consumers from the predatory lending practices that have been so pervasive over the rest of the nation.

### SUBPRIME LENDING REFORM

- Mortgage Broker Industry Reform
- Pre- and Post-Purchase Counseling
- Smart Homeownership Choices program
- Avoiding Mortgage Scams

## PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS



Each year the legislature approves low and no-interest loans for local bridges, roads and water systems – all necessities for expanding or starting businesses. This year's project list will produce \$1.9 billion worth of economic activity and including a **\$5.3 million loan for improvements at the Highline Water District.**



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### RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

If you need information about state government, you may find the following Internet sites to be great resources. Or, you can always call or e-mail my office.

<http://hdc.leg.wa.gov/members/upthegrove> offers my biography and views on various issues.

#### [access.wa.gov](http://access.wa.gov)

provides access to state agency services, including applying for unemployment benefits, renewing car tabs, and much more.

#### [leg.wa.gov](http://leg.wa.gov)

offers committee meeting schedules, bill tracking and nearly everything else you'd want to know about the Legislature.

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State Representative Dave Upthegrove  
JLOB 336  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

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